

'Last' survivor rescued from rubble

SINGAPORE (R) — A Chinese woman who spent nearly 80 hours trapped under the ruins of Singapore's collapsed New World Hotel was rescued on Tuesday by mining engineers, and police said she may be the last survivor of the disaster. They said contact had been lost with some 50 people still trapped in the debris of the six-storey hotel, which caved in on Saturday. The woman, identified as Chua Kim Choo, 30, was the 17th person rescued from the huge pile of rubble. "It's a great feeling to see her alive," Tommy Gallagher, one of her rescuers, told Reuters. The official death toll of the disaster is 11, but rescuers say they have seen more bodies inside. Mr. Gallagher, one of a group of British and Irish rescue workers, said the woman was in fine form as she was pulled to the surface on a stretcher along a tiny tunnel.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Islamic finance chiefs to meet here

AMMAN (J.T.) — Governors of Islamic Banks in 43 countries will open their 10th annual meeting in Amman on Saturday. The two-day meeting, which will be attended by the finance ministers of the countries, will discuss the banks' operations, particularly with regard to financing projects in Islamic nations, over the past year and the final accounts of their budgets and recommendations as well as a general assessment of their performance, according to Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Ali, chairman of the board of directors of the Jeddah based Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The Islamic banks founded in a number of Arab and Islamic countries are branches of IDB which was established in 1975 to offer loans to Islamic nations and consolidate economic development and help carry out social and economic projects for the Muslim countries. Since its establishment IDB has offered loans totalling \$5 billion to finance projects in the Arab and Islamic worlds, Dr. Ali said.

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Arafat arrives in Yugoslavia

DUBROVNIK, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, arrived in this Adriatic resort on Tuesday on the first stop of a visit to Yugoslavia. The Tanjug news agency reported. President Radovan Vukobratovic of the collective state presidency met Mr. Arafat at Dubrovnik airport. Mr. Arafat pays regular visits to Yugoslavia.

Bomb explodes near Israeli patrol

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — A roadside bomb exploded on Tuesday beside a patrol of Israeli soldiers and militia allies in South Lebanon. Lebanese security sources said. Heavy shooting was heard in the area immediately after the explosion, inside the Israeli "security zone" created on the Lebanese side of the border last year, the sources said. Farther north, commandos clashed with militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army near the port of Sidon. Casualty reports were not immediately available.

Israel, Egypt to draft arbitration terms

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and Egypt will begin drafting the terms for setting their Taba border dispute when talks resume on Wednesday in Cairo, Israeli officials said on Tuesday. Israeli and Egyptian teams have conducted dozens of meetings on ways to resolve the dispute over Taba, a Red Sea beach strip, and on 14 other border points claimed by both countries under their 1979 treaty.

Bush to visit Gulf in April

WASHINGTON (R) — Vice President George Bush will visit the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula next month to discuss the Iran-Iraq war and other security issues, the White House has announced. Spokesman Larry Speakes said Mr. Bush would visit Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and North Yemen from April 3 to April 12. Details of the vice president's itinerary will be announced later.

Benjedd to visit Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedd will visit Moscow at the end of this month at the invitation of the Soviet leadership, the Soviet news agency TASS said Tuesday. Mr. Benjedd last paid an official visit to the Soviet Union in June 1981.

6 African leaders to meet in Uganda

KHARTOUM (R) — The heads of state of six African countries will meet in the Ugandan capital Kampala later this week, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Tuesday. A SUNA report from Kampala said Sudanese head of state General Abdul Rahman Swaroud would leave Khartoum on Thursday to attend the summit with the leaders of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Zaire.

Mitterrand consults Chirac on government

Rightist leader promises quick reply

PARIS (Agencies) — President Francois Mitterrand consulted Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac on Tuesday over the formation of a new government and was promised a reply as soon as possible, the Elysee Palace announced.

Mr. Chirac spent two and a quarter hours with Mr. Mitterrand, who announced Monday night that he would pick a prime minister from the right-wing alliance. The alliance won a narrow victory in Sunday's general election.

"The president called in M. Jacques Chirac to discuss the formation of a new government. M. Chirac will give his reply as soon as possible," Elysee Chief of Staff Jean-Louis Bianco said.

Mr. Chirac spoke to reporters who had waited at the presidential residence for the name of the new head of government to succeed Socialist Laurent Fabius.

Mr. Chirac's decision to reserve his reply followed an agreement on Monday between his RPR party and the centre-right UDF to consult before any of their leaders accepted the job.

It was not immediately clear whether the consultation would be a mere formality or whether the Mitterrand-Chirac meeting had revealed major political differences.

The conservative and centrist opposition won a slim majority in Sunday's elections, giving them control of the 577-seat National Assembly. A new premier must be named and a cabinet formed before the opening of parliament on April 2.

Final election figures published



Jacques Chirac

by the Interior Ministry gave the neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) party, the centrist Union for French Democracy (UDF), and their allies from small rightist parties 290 seats in the National Assembly, one more than the figure needed for an absolute majority. The extreme right National Front won 35 seats.

The Socialists and their leftist allies won 215 seats and the Communists 35. Two seats remain to be decided in a runoff.

The real make-up of the new assembly, however, will not be known until the spring session begins and parliamentary groups

officially are formed and independents affiliate with them.

The results from Sunday's election means that for the first time in the 28-year history of the Fifth Republic, a president will have to govern with a hostile parliament. After months of debating the subject of "cohabitation," the reality was at hand.

"I understand the change implied for our democracy of the arrival in power of a political majority whose policies are different, on some essential points, from those of the president," Mr. Mitterrand said Monday.

"The only answer to this question lies in the scrupulous respect for our institutions and the common will to place the national interest before all else."

The conservatives say they will begin immediately implementing their campaign platform, including lifting price and exchange controls, cutting public spending, abolishing the wealth tax, reducing taxes on business and liberalising government control over companies' right to lay off workers.

The new majority parties have warned Mr. Mitterrand that he must choose a premier acceptable to them, implying that otherwise, the new government could lose a vote of confidence in parliament.

Peres likens Le Pen with Kahane, page 2

Election results won't change policy, French envoy says, page 3

Stalemate triggers start of presidential race; new premier faces tough task, page 4

Raad abandons hostage mission

PARIS (R) — Razah Raad, France's unofficial mediator with the kidnappers of French hostages in Lebanon, said on Tuesday he was abandoning his efforts following charges that his mission had ruined the hostages' chances of release.

"I have abandoned my mission," the Lebanese-born heart specialist told Reuters by telephone from his surgery in northwestern France.

Dr. Raad warned on Monday that he would quit unless the government cleared him of accusations that he had ruined a parallel set of negotiations on releasing the hostages by making too generous an offer to the kidnappers.

The charges were made on state television by Syrian-born Omran Adham, a mysterious figure who describes himself as a personal envoy of President Francois Mitterrand to Damascus. French officials have declined to comment on his status.

The bizarre row between the two men came as efforts to secure the release of the hostages appeared to have slowed down yet further with the impending change of government in Paris after Sunday's general election.

The External Relations Ministry, which considered Dr. Raad a "semi-official" envoy, had no comment on the doctor's move.

Dr. Raad, who spent four days in Beirut and Damascus last week, had sought to make contact with the shadowy Islamic Jihad group which says it is holding diplomats Marcel Fontaine and Marcel Carton and journalist Jean-Paul Kaufmann.

Islamic Jihad says it has killed four hostages. Arabist researcher Michel Saurat. Another mysterious group, the Revolutionary

Justice Organisation, claims to be holding a four-man French television crew.

Dr. Raad said on Tuesday he was abandoning his efforts due to what he termed attempts to discredit him and to sow discord between him and his negotiating partners.

"There were people who had an interest in making sure I did not succeed," he said. He would not be more specific.

Dr. Raad stood as a rightist candidate for the Orne department in the elections, but polled less than six per cent.

He hit back at critics who said his mediation effort was part of his election campaign, saying that his mission had harmed his chances of reaching the National Assembly.

"I am disappointed," he said. "My only aims were humanitarian and to help my country."

UNRWA driver kidnapped, page 2

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Palme murder suspect said to be extreme rightist

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — The Stockholm public prosecutor's office on Tuesday named a man charged with involvement in the murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme, and an extreme right-wing political party said he was a former member.

The man was identified as Alexander Viktor Gunnarsson, aged 32, by an official of the prosecutor's office contacted by Reuters. His name has not been published in Sweden in line with local legal practice.

Gunnarsson was charged on Monday with participation in the murder "as a perpetrator," but both the prosecutor and police refused to make clear whether he was suspected of firing the fatal shot or of being an accomplice to the murder last month.

A spokesman for the Swedish branch of the European Workers' Party (EAP) said the suspect had been briefly associated with the group but was no longer a member.

"He was a member for several months at the beginning of 1985," spokesman Michael Ericson said in a radio interview.

"When it became clear that he had, to say the least, strange ideas which indicated cult tendencies, we distanced ourselves and broke off contact with him."

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Peres: Syria may go to war

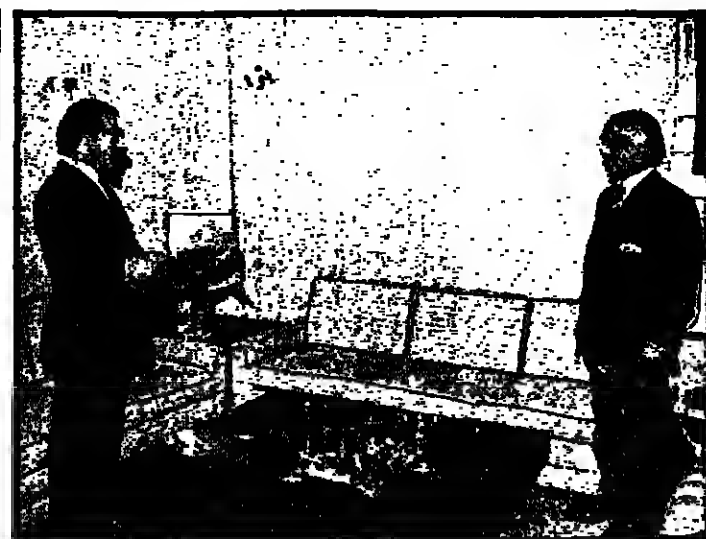
TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday that Israel did not want to maintain a permanent military force in Lebanon and would remove it as soon as "Syrian-sponsored attacks on Israel" stopped.

Peres also contended that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has not abandoned the idea of defeating Israel, but the Syrian army has far to go until it achieves the strategic parity necessary to launch an "effective" war.

Speaking during a tour of northern settlements near the Lebanese border, Peres said that Israel had no interest in maintaining a permanent military presence in South Lebanon where Israel controls a 10-to-16-kilometre wide area defined as a "security zone."

"The Israeli army will leave the security zone when they (the Syrians) stop sending car bombs across the border. We have no interest in a long-term stay there," Peres said. There have been 15 attempts by car bombers to attack Israeli troops and their Lebanese allies since Israel left a force of 1,000 soldiers in the narrow strip during its withdrawal from Lebanon in June last year.

Peres told reporters that President Assad "has a long way to go" to achieve overall military and strategic parity with Israel.



ENVOY SWORN IN: Farouq Al Qasrawi, the newly-appointed permanent ambassador to the U.N. European headquarters in Geneva, is sworn in on Tuesday before His Majesty King Hussein (Petra photo)

Sharif Zaid calls for Arab support of Iraq

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief, General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, began an official visit to Sudan on Tuesday with a call on all Arab states to back Iraq in its war against Iran.

In an airport statement on arrival at the head of a military delegation, Gen. Sharif Zaid said Jordan supported Iraq "without any hesitance or reservation."

He also called for a unified Arab stand to check "Israel's expansionist and aggressive policies."

Gen. Sharif Zaid invited here by Sudanese military ruler Gen. Abdul Rahman Swaroudah, said he would discuss with the Sudanese ways to step up coordination between the Jordanian and Sudanese armies. Jordan, he added, was prepared to offer military training help.

Iraq, Iran claim successes in attacks

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq and Iran on Tuesday claimed successes in widely separated Gulf war attacks as Iraq's efforts to oust invasion forces from its Fao Peninsula entered a sixth week.

Iraq said its aircraft attacked an Iranian oil refinery at Isfahan on Tuesday and reduced it to rubble.

"Our warplanes raided the refinery at 11:10 a.m. (0810 GMT), dropping tons of explosives and reducing it to smoldering piles," a military spokesman said.

The refinery at Isfahan, in central Iran 400 kilometres from the Iraqi border, became operational in 1980 with a capacity of 200,000 barrels daily, oil industry sources in the Gulf told Reuters.

Isfahan has been the target of previous Iraqi air attacks, especially early last year when Iraq and Iran attacked each other's cities.

Tehran Radio broadcast an Iranian army communiqué saying Iranian jets bombed an Iraqi economic and military installation northwest of Qalabat Salih just south of the strategic city of Al Amarah in the southern warfront.

The Iranian communiqué claimed the raid at 9:45 a.m. caused irreparable damage and inflicted heavy casualties.

Iraq, however, said Iraqi anti-aircraft guns forced two Iranian planes to flee the Misan area, in the same region as Qalabat Salih.

Qalabat Salih is just south of Al Amarah, a strategic city on the Basra-Baghdad highway.

The Iranian artillery also shelled the Iraqi naval base of Umm Qasr, Tehran Radio said.

Iraq also reported two attacks on shipping on Tuesday. Iraqi military spokesmen said its navy attacked and destroyed a "middle-size naval target" near Iraq's offshore oilfield of Nawruz in the northern Gulf at 0715 GMT and a "large naval target" at 0740 GMT.

Iraq's usual terminology for a tanker or merchant ship — at 0140 GMT off the Iranian coast.

Iraqi planes on Tuesday crippled a Cypriot tanker plying for Iran in the northern Gulf.

Shipping officials in the region said the 118,475-ton Achilleon was hit by a missile while in ballast about 120 kilometres south of Iran's main Kharg Island oil export terminal.

Meanwhile, Arab diplomatic sources were quoted by Reuters as saying that the Arab League will discuss the Iran-Iraq war at a meeting of foreign ministers in Tunis on Monday.

Details of the agenda of the meeting were still being worked out and it was not yet known how many foreign ministers of the 21-member Tunis-based league would attend, the sources added.

Arab League foreign ministers last met at an extraordinary session in Tunis in January to debate U.S. economic sanctions against

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AAU to reexamine Egypt's membership

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Association of Arab Universities (AAU) on Tuesday issued a number of recommendations on issues ranging from prospects for renewing the membership of Egyptian universities in the association to setting up a data bank and other educational activities in the Arab World.

Participants at the 19th AAU session, which concluded meetings here Tuesday evening, agreed to form a tripartite special committee to explore possibilities of renewing Egyptian universities' membership in the association.

Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran said. Dr. Badran chaired the three-day session.

The special committee will evaluate Egyptian universities' current trends and forward a final report to the forthcoming AAU meeting, due to be held at Tishrin University in Syria in 1987, Dr. Badran said.

Egyptian universities' membership in the AAU was revoked by an urgent AAU meeting in Baghdad following the signing of the 1979 Egypt-Israel treaty.

The Amman meetings also ratified articles in the second part of a book on the Palestinian cause, currently under print, to be included in Arab universities' syllabus.

A number of Arab scholars and eminent researchers have embarked on preparing the book.

Earlier, an item in the agenda of the Amman meeting provoked a debate among the participants, from 35 Arab universities, on designating a new subject in the curriculum to be titled "Arab boycott of Israel."

The representative of the Arab Gulf University in the United Arab Emirates said that such a subject should not be taught separately as it was "not the proper way of introducing the Palestinian cause to students." He recommended that the subject be included within the book on Palestinian cause as a separate chapter.

The representative of the King Abdul Aziz University of Saudi Arabia supported the argument and suggested the article in the agenda be withdrawn.

Dr. Badran said the book on Palestinian cause was set to include the boycott of Israel and recommended that the article be kept as part of the book. The suggestion was adopted by a show-of-hand vote.

Another recommendation called for the setting up of a data bank to be located at the AAU General Secretariat based at the Yarmouk University liaison office

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. suffers record trade deficit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States suffered a record \$117.7-billion deficit in the broadest measure of its foreign trade last year as the country became a net debtor for the first time in 71 years, the Commerce Department reported on Tuesday.

The department said that the deficit on the country's current account for 1985 was 9.6 per cent above the previous record deficit of \$107.4 billion in 1984.

The current account is the broadest measure of the country's international transactions because it measures not only trade in merchandise but also in services, mainly foreign investment flows between countries.

Up until 1982, the country enjoyed a surplus in the current account because U.S. investment earnings overseas were enough to cover deficits in merchandise trade.

However, soaring U.S. trade deficits have far surpassed the small investment surpluses in recent years.

For 1985, the surplus in investment earnings totalled \$21.4 billion, a slight improvement from 1984. But the merchandise trade deficit last year totalled \$124.3 billion, an 8.9-per cent increase over 1984.

The soaring merchandise trade deficit and \$14.8 billion in transfer payments such as foreign aid swamped the \$21.4 billion investment surplus to give the country the \$117.7-billion current account deficit for the year.

The big deficit wiped out the small \$28.2-billion surplus the United States had at the end of 1984 in its overseas investments, pushing the country into the status of net debtor for the first time since 1914.

That means foreigners have more investments in the United States than U.S. citizens have in foreign countries.

(Continued on page 2)

Moscow protests against American 'violations of Soviet waters'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union delivered a note of protest to the U.S. embassy on Tuesday complaining that American naval ships violated Soviet territorial waters off the Black Sea coast.

The protest note was reported by the official news agency TASS, which gave no details of who delivered it nor who received it.

It was the second note of protest delivered by the Foreign Ministry in the past eight days.

Last Tuesday the ministry warned U.S. Charge d'Affaires Richard Combs that a White House order that the Soviets reduce their United Nations staff violated U.N. regulations and endangered superpower relations.

U.S. embassy spokesman Jaroslav Verner confirmed that the note alleging border violations

was delivered "through normal diplomatic channels." But he declined to answer any other questions about the exchange.

The Soviet Union claims territorial waters of 12 nautical miles from the coast, and this is recognised by the United States and other nations.

TASS said that "a protest note was presented to the U.S. embassy in Moscow over U.S. warships' violation of the state border of the USSR off the southern coast of the Crimea in the Black Sea on March 13."

The note warned the embassy that "the action was of a demonstrative, defiant nature and pursued clearly provocative aims," TASS said.

It also said the incident "was not the first time that U.S. naval ships deliberately failed to comply with

the laws and rules of the USSR concerning the regime of Soviet territorial waters, the inadmissibility of which has been repeatedly pointed out to the U.S. side."

In another development, the Communist Party daily Pravda said on Tuesday U.S. policies on strategic and medium-range nuclear forces and space weapons were having an adverse effect on superpower arms talks in Geneva.

Pravda criticised Reagan administration charges of Soviet violations of arms control agreements as "a propaganda hullabaloo."

"The aim of the U.S. administration's actions is, under the cover of statements and reports alleging Soviet treaty violations, to conceal its own efforts to undercut and erode the existing system of agreements," Pravda said.

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Junblatt warns of another all-out civil war in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Sniper fire crackled across Beirut's dividing "Green Line" Tuesday, wounding three civilians, as the media trumpeted a warning by Druze warlord Walid Junblatt that a new round of all-out civil war was looming.

Police said the three civilians were wounded at the mid-city Sodeco and Kassass-Massaleh crossings on the five-kilometre Green Line that slices Beirut into Christian and Muslim sectors. Both gateways were closed.

Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini appealed to militiamen to observe a one-day cease-fire on the Green Line's central sector to allow him to convene the legislature to elect its committees.

The two-story Villa Mansour parliament building stands in the no-man's land on the front line close to the headquarters of a 60-man French truce observer contingent.

Shortly after Mr. Husseini's appeal, parliament members were driving from both sector of the capital to Villa Mansour through the Barbur-Museum Crossing, the state radio reported.

In sounding the new war alarm, Mr. Junblatt said: "Lebanon is heading towards a new explosion. The war will resume. Every party is preparing for it."

Mr. Junblatt spoke in Algiers in

an interview with a French television station.

He reminded the French of the heavy price they paid for participating in a Multinational Force (MNF) after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Muslim fundamentalists have kidnapped eight Frenchmen in West Beirut. One of the factions, the shadowy Shi'ite Muslim Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War, claimed on March 5 it killed one of the four men it held, research analyst Michel Saurat.

"I advise France not to get involved militarily in Lebanon again," Mr. Junblatt said.

He reminded the French of the heavy price they paid for participating in a Multinational Force MNF after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Mr. Junblatt was referring to the October, 1983, suicide car bombings of the MNF's U.S. Marine headquarters and the French paratrooper command in Beirut. The attacks killed 241 Americans and 59 Frenchmen.

The MNF, in which Italy and

Britain also participated, pulled out of Lebanon in early 1984. That was when Mr. Junblatt's Druze irregulars and the Shi'ite Amal militia wrested control of West Beirut from the Lebanese army.

The city has been plagued by assassinations, hold-ups, bank robberies and kidnappings ever since. A string of Syrian-backed security plans has failed to curb the anarchy.

Under the latest plan, an enlarged task force of 425 Druze and Shi'ite militiamen would be deployed in eight districts to close armed militia centres and get fighters off the streets.

They will back up a force of 500 Muslim soldiers and state policemen ordered to restore law and order in West Beirut.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami declared Monday the new plan was under way. But police said the deployment was held up for one or two days because of "logistical considerations."

Meanwhile the Reagan administration called Monday for the release of hostages held in Lebanon and said it was making intensive efforts to seek the freedom of six Americans.

State Department Spokesman Charles Redman made the appeal after officials of the department

and the National Security Council met members of the hostages' families "to discuss the ongoing intensive efforts" to win the hostages' release.

He gave no indication that the U.S. efforts were yielding results but said quiet diplomacy was judged to be the best way of dealing with the hostage situation.

Mr. Redman noted that Sunday was the second anniversary of the captivity of U.S. diplomat William Buckley and the first anniversary of the seizure of Terry Anderson, Associated Press bureau chief in Beirut.

The Islamic Jihad (holy war) group said in a statement last October that Buckley had been executed. But Mr. Redman said the administration was operating on the assumption that all the kidnapped Americans were still alive.

"All civilized governments should join together in demanding that those governments with a demonstrated ability to influence the captors use their influence to bring about the immediate, unconditioned release of all hostages."

We call for the safe and prompt return for all the hostages," he said, noting that French, British, Italian and Lebanese hostages were also being held in Lebanon.

50 skeletons found in cave near Sidon

SIDON (AP) — About 50 skeletons have been discovered in a small cave near the southern port city of Sidon and police speculated Tuesday they may have been Palestinians killed in an Israeli army interrogation centre.

But they stressed there was no indication at this stage how the people died.

The remains will be examined by forensic experts to determine when the victims were killed, police said.

The skulls and bones were discovered Monday in the cave on

Sharhabil Hill overlooking Sidon, 45 kilometres south of Beirut.

Police said a Lebanese soldier from Sidon's army garrison stumbled on the cave when he was taking a walk.

The hill was a stronghold held by the Israelis and their mainly Falangist allies of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia after the Israeli invaded Lebanon in 1982 to drive out Palestinian commandos, police reported.

The area around the hilltop cave is thinly inhabited. After the Israelis withdrew

from the region in 1984, it was taken over by the Falangist Lebanese Forces militia.

They were driven out by Syrian-backed opposition militias in April last year.

Since then, leftists of the Nasr-ite Popular Liberation Army have controlled Sharhabil, which overlooks the Awali River just north of Sidon.

Mass graves of people kidnapped and killed in Lebanon's 11-year-old civil war have been found in the area in recent years.

UNRWA driver kidnapped in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen Tuesday kidnapped a Palestinian working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) in the fifth abduction of an UNRWA employee this year, the U.N. body said.

Zaki Hamadeh, a 49-year-old driver, was seized by five men in an unmarked white Mercedes who forced his vehicle to a halt soon after dawn in the southern suburb of mainly-Muslim West Beirut. An UNRWA statement said they had no attempt to seize Palestinian passengers travelling with Hamadeh.

An UNRWA spokeswoman said U.N. officers were working urgently "with various parties" for Hamadeh's release.

30,000 Ethiopians return home

GENEVA (R) — More than 30,000 Ethiopian refugees have returned to their home province of Tigre in the north of the country from neighbouring Sudan in the past six weeks, a United Nations spokesman said Tuesday.

A further 15,000 have registered with U.N. refugee officials to follow later, the spokesman said.

Mubarak, Li discuss Mideast

CAIRO (AP) — China joined Egypt Tuesday in supporting an agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a joint strategy for peace with Israel, an Egyptian spokesman said.

Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif told reporters the Palestinian problem figured prominently in almost two hours of talks between President Hosni Mubarak and Chinese President Li Xiannian.

Mr. Li arrived in Cairo Monday for the official part of an eight-day visit.

The two presidents discussed the Palestinian problem as one of the most important, complicated and sensitive issues of our time," Mr. Sherif said.

"They considered that the February 1985 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation is a positive basis for movement to achieve the rights of the Palestinian people and that greater efforts are required by all parties."

The agreement called for joint efforts toward a settlement with Israel based on trading peace for the occupied West Bank and Gaza and establishment of a Palestinian state confederated with Jordan. It also provided for peace talks through an international conference sponsored by the United Nations.

Mr. Sherif said Mr. Li and Mr. Mubarak also discussed the Iran-Iraq war and "Chinese and Egyptian foreign policies at the international level." He quoted Mr. Mubarak as saying there was "an identity of views on the subjects discussed."

Mr. Li is returning a visit Mr. Mubarak made to China in 1983, and Mr. Sherif said the Chinese leader invited the Egyptian president to visit China again "at his convenience."

Mr. Li is on an Africa-Asia tour that already has taken him to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He will travel to Somalia and Madagascar after leaving Egypt on Friday.

Peres likens Le Pen to Kahane

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said the extreme right-wing National Front which won nearly 10 per cent of the vote in France's elections endangered democracy in the same way as Israel's militant Rabbi Meir Kahane.

"When a quasi-fascist party like the Le Pen party gains 10 per cent, I believe it worries not only the French people but every person in a democratic country," he told a North American immigrant organisation Monday night.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, president of the National Front, favoured expelling immigrants, many of them from North Africa.

Mr. Peres drew a comparison with Kahane, a U.S.-born member of parliament who campaigns to expel Arabs from Israel and its occupied territories.

Chadian troops push against rebels

N'DJAMENA (R) — Government troops have destroyed a rebel base in northern Chad, a military statement said, and diplomats said the report signalled an apparent push to oust Libyan-backed forces from the Central African state.

The statement, broadcast on official radio Monday night, said troops of President Hissene Habre destroyed the base of Chicha, 100 kilometres north of the 16th parallel dividing Chad's rebel-held north from the government-controlled south.

It said the attack took place after "Libyan provocateurs" were intercepted near the government outpost of Koro Toro.

The seizure of Chicha would mark the most northerly push by government troops since Chad was split in two in 1983 after France sent more than 3,000 troops into its former colony.

France withdrew its troops one

year later after helping Mr. Habre repel a rebel offensive launched by Libyan-backed former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei, and a full of more than two years followed before civil war flared again last month.

Since then, diplomats in N'Djamena have been speculating that Mr. Habre, who has greatly strengthened his position during the past year, could launch a northward push.

The radio said troops of Libya's "Islamic Legion" were based at Chicha, and diplomats said the seizure of the outpost could signal the start of an offensive by Mr. Habre to oust the forces of his enemy Goukouni from Chad.

Western intelligence sources estimate the rebel military strength in northern Chad at around 8,000 men, backed by roughly the same number of Libyan forces. Libya says it has advisers in the north of the land-locked country.

but no troops.

France sent a deterrent force including warplanes back into Chad last month following the resurgence of fighting.

But the latest in a series of French interventions followed a successful counter-attack by Mr. Habre's own troops, who pushed Goukouni's men back behind the 16th parallel.

Chadian officials have said the morale of Mr. Habre's men is high and the time ripe for a northern push.

Mr. Habre's position has been greatly strengthened recently following increasing dissension within Goukouni's Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) and the rallying to the N'Djamena side of hundreds of southern rebels.

Civil war has raged sporadically for 20 years in Chad, one of the world's most impoverished nations.

Suddarth: Mideast effort entering critical phase

(Continued from page 1)

show in Arab security and welfare, as well as a desire on the part of Arab states to defuse the conflict in order to promote their own economic and political development."

This pragmatism was reflected in discussions last year among the United States, Israel, and Jordan on ways to advance the peace process and although the parties did not resolve the issues of dispute, significant progress was achieved, he said.

At the same time, said Mr. Suddarth, there has been in recent years a countervailing development in the form of growing radicalism and polarisation in the Middle East. "For the first time in three decades, recent events make it increasingly difficult for us to maintain the balanced approach which has worked so well in advancing the interests of the U.S., Israel, and moderate Arab states."

He cited Islamic extremism fuelled by the Iranian revolution, widespread acts of terrorism, and the Iran-Iraq war as examples of radicalism that destabilise the region and threaten the efforts of moderate Arab leaders.

Mr. Suddarth said that for nearly 40 years the United States has defined its interests in the Middle East broadly and has worked to encourage dialogue and cooperation among responsible groups in the region.

Since World War II, the United States has maintained its commitment to the security of Israel as well as maintaining close ties with moderate Arab countries, he said.

"Our influence as a mediator in the search for peace is based on the trust, confidence, and friendship we enjoy with both sides and on our ability to help support their legitimate needs," he said.

The constructive role of the U.S. in the Middle East contrasts sharply with that of the Soviet Union, Mr. Suddarth contended.

"By giving the nod to radical forces, the Soviet Union has lost credit with moderate Arabs, with the growing number of pragmatists. It has little equity and few assets in the region. And without diplomatic relations with Israel and with limited diplomatic ties and bilateral relations in the Arab world, the Soviet Union has

no more than a peripheral role to play in the peace process."

Mr. Suddarth concluded by assuring his audience that the U.S. remains committed to maintaining constructive relations with the Arabs and Israelis and to working toward peaceful settlements of disputes in the region.

"And we will work to maintain the programmes of security assistance that are among our essential tools as we seek to ensure that pragmatic, realistic forces prevail over those who would radicalise and polarise this important region."

Mohamed Kamal, Jordan's ambassador to the United States, told the gathering that no matter how difficult it may be to achieve, every effort must be made to bring peace to the Middle East.

"We look for the day when all children in the Middle East will look forward to a future without tension and war. We want the mothers and fathers of future generations to outlive their families in a climate of hope, optimism, and tolerance," he said.

"His Majesty King Hussein has laboured all his life in the pursuit of peace in our part of the world. And he has done so believing that the achievement of peace in the Middle East must include all the voices to this tragic conflict."

Mr. Kamal said that King Hussein's unsuccessful efforts to initiate negotiations involving Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have resulted in disappointment — "disappointment not at the effort or the intensity of concern, but over the failure of parties to take this opportunity to move forward in good faith in the pursuit of peace in our homeland."

For peace negotiations to suc-

ceed, he said, the United States must play the central role. "Your country is, therefore, in a special position of trust, and we are grateful for the efforts of President Reagan."

The setback in King Hussein's peace efforts was compounded by the recent refusal by Congress to approve the sale of arms to Jordan, Mr. Kamal said. "Please remember, security assistance not only helps Jordan, it assists in the security of all people of the entire region, and it very directly serves the security interests of our friend, the United States."

U.S. Congressman Nick J. Rahall, said that recognition of the rights of Palestinians is vital to achieve peace. "We are all interested in peace in the Middle East. It is definitely in the best interest of the United States to see a peaceful, thriving Middle East," he said.

"Without the promise that this right will be implemented as part of any settlement, neither Yasser Arafat nor King Hussein, nor any present or future Arab leader will be able to negotiate a lasting peace with Israel," Mr. Rahall said.

"Pressure must be put on all parties to accept the basic fact that the Palestinians have rights and these rights must be protected. And I feel strongly that the one in the best position to champion these rights credibly is the United States."

Nizar Hamdoun, Iraq's ambassador to the United States, said that his country has promoted stability by resisting Iranian aggression in the Gulf states region. If Iraq's military effort had collapsed two or three years ago, "I'm sure you would see a far different region today," he said.

Iraq, Iran claim successes

(Continued from page 1)

Libya. In Dubai, British Foreign Office Minister Timothy Renton said on Tuesday mediation by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar offered the best hope to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Renton, addressing a news conference at the end of a three-nation Gulf tour, reiterated Britain's readiness to consider any Kuwaiti request for military assistance.

He said Britain's main objective was to bring Iran and Iraq to the negotiating table, "preferably under the umbrella of the Secretary-General of the U.N. because we believe that it is with him that the greatest hope lies."

Mr. Renton declined to elaborate on what kind of aid Britain might be willing to extend to Kuwait.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-14 PROGRAMME ONE 16:00 Religious programme 16:30 Cartoons 16:55 Children's Programme 17:35 Cartoons 18:00 Documentary 18:20 Arabic Series 19:20 Documentary 20:00 News in Arabic 20:40 Arabic Series 21:30 Documentary 22:00 Tomorrow's programme 22:40 Wrestling 23:00 News in Arabic PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Transcontinental (French) 19:00 News in French 19:15 Anybody on France 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:15 Three's Company 21:10 Documentary 22:00 News in English 22:15 Falcon Crest		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * An exhibition of plastic art by Mrs. Horia Iraqi at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 19). * A French exhibition on film directing at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 27). * Book exhibition at Amra Hotel organised by Yarmouk University. VIDEO * "Zadig ou la destinee" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre. FILMS * Flamme de Henna at 20:00 p.m. at Goethe Institute. MUSEUMS Feldore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Metropolis, Jabal Lawleh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128. Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240. Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT <i>This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 33200-1, where it should always be verified.</i> ARRIVALS 07:30 London, Larnaca (BA) 07:50 Karachi (PK) 08:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (R) 09:45 Athens (R) 09:45 Samos (R) 09:45 Jeddah (R) 09:50 Doha, Bahrain (R) 10:00 Cairo, Asmara (R) 10:00 Dhahran (R) 10:45 Kuwait, Dhahran (R) 12:10 Bahrain (GA) 12:45 Kuwait (R) 13:10 London, Paris (R) 13:10 Paris, Damascus (AF) 17:50 Cairo (R) 17:50 New York, Amsterdam (R) 17:45 Damascus (R) 17:50 London, Paris (R) 18:00 Madrid, Geneva (R) 18:00 Rome (R) 18:25 Beirut (R) 18:25 Istanbul (R) 19:30 Baghdad (R) 20:00 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (R) 20:00 Cairo, Damascus (R) 20:05 Frankfurt-Damascus (LJ) 21:15 Tripoli-Damascus (R) 06:25 Baghdad (R) DEPARTURES 06:30 Istanbul, Amsterdam (KL) 07:30 Athens (R) 07:30 Larnaca, London (R) 08:30 Athens (R) 08:30 Athens, Rome (R) 10:15 Damascus, Rome (AZ) 10:20 Damascus, Cairo (R) 12:10 Belgrade, London (R) 12:10 Istanbul (R) 12:30 Larnaca, Zurich (R) 13:30 Doha, Dubai, Muscat (R) 13:30 Cairo (R) 15:00 Larnaca-Tripoli (R) 16:00 Jeddah (R) 16:45 Samos (R) 19:30 Kuwait (R) 19:40 Dhahran (R)		EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891228 Amman civil defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Unit 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Qawwash 770733 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 196 First aid 667274 Blood bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 622090-3 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 8963901 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Municipal water complaints 771125/8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 5333060 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Jabal Amman Maternity 64241/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 64241/2 Malina, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 64545/65 Al-Musabir Hospital 667274 The Islamic, Abdali 66617/57 Al-Ahli, Abdali 66416/6 Italian, Al-Majma'een 777101/3 Al-Baskar, J. Ashrafieh 775111/226 Army, Madra 69111/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Abdul Kader Alala 896046 MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in Jls per kg: Apple (American) 250 / 220 Apple (American) 300 / 450 Banana 300 / 240 Banana (Pakistan) 250 / 230 Beetroot 120 / 90 Beet 500 / 450 Broad beans 150 / 100 Cabbage 60 / 40 Carrot (yellow) 120 / 100 Carrot (white) 130 / 100 Cauliflower 140 / 100 Cucumber (large) 140 / 100 Cucumber (small) 220 / 180 Eggplant (large) 200 / 160 Eggplant (small) 280 / 200 Garlic 260 / 200 Grapefruit 140 / 100 Lemon 170 / 130 Lettuce (per unit) 100 / 100 Mint (per unit) 130 / 80 Mint (small) 180 / 120 Onion (large) 180 / 140 Onion (small) 100 / 60 Orange (Shmeisani) 240 / 200 Orange (local and Valencia) 130 / 80 Pepper (sweet) 160 / 120 Pepper (hot) 480 / 400 Potatoes (local) 140 / 100 Potatoes (sweet) 200 / 150 Radishes 70 / 40 Spinach 140 / 90 Tomatoes 150 / 70 Turnip 150 / 50	

Syrian industry minister arrives for discussions on joint economic projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Syrian Minister of Industry Ali Tarabulsi arrived in Amman Tuesday on a visit to Jordan expected to last several days. He will hold talks with Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Mnasher on bolstering Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in industrial affairs.

In a statement upon arrival at the border post of Ramtha, the Syrian minister said that he and Jordanian officials will discuss joint Syrian-Jordanian projects which, he said, are designed to achieve economic integration

between the two countries and to form a nucleus for pan-Arab economic integration.

Mr. Tarabulsi said that the joint Jordanian-Syrian projects are successful, but he hoped they will achieve further progress.

In his talks here the minister said he will discuss subjects pertaining to the Arab ministers of industry meeting due to be held at the end of this year. Jordanian officials were on hand to greet Mr. Tarabulsi upon his arrival in Ramtha.



Syrian Minister of Industry Ali Tarabulsi speaks to reporters upon his arrival in Amman on Tuesday (Petra photo)

China keen to develop cultural ties with Jordan, official says

AMMAN (Petra) — A Chinese official Tuesday emphasised China's interest in developing its cultural ties with Jordan and said that China will honour its commitment to execute a bilateral cooperation agreement in cultural affairs in 1986 and 1987.

The pledge came in a statement by Mr. Chiang Chun, the deputy director of the Chinese Ministry of Culture's Foreign Relations Department, who is currently on a visit to Jordan at the head of an official delegation.

Mr. Chun, who was speaking at a meeting with Minister of Information and Culture Mohamad Al Khatib, said that China will continue to back Arab countries in their efforts against foreign intervention and in their endeavours to achieve development and progress, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Chun voiced admiration for Jordan's rapid progress in different fields, particularly in cul-

tural affairs, and praised Jordanian-Chinese cultural ties, Petra said.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Chinese Ambassador in Amman Chang Jin, Mr. Khatib reviewed Jordanian-Chinese relations and referred to China's stand vis a vis the Arab causes, particularly the Palestine question.

The minister praised China's support for Jordan's policy designed to find a just and permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference to be attended by the concerned parties and members of the United Nations Security Council.

At the meeting, Mr. Chun exchanged token gifts with the minister and extended an invitation to Mr. Khatib to visit China.

The Chinese delegation later visited Yarmouk University in Irbid and were briefed by officials on its development and programmes.

No change expected in French position on Mideast issues, envoy says

By Samir Hiyari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — France is not expected to change its position with regard to Arab questions following the success of the rightist parties in the latest French parliamentary elections. French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq said here Tuesday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, the ambassador said that Franco-Arab relations have not changed since the 1960s and since de Gaulle, the four presidents and the French governments have maintained almost the same policies regarding their relations with the Arab countries.

France calls for justice for all peoples and maintains its support for a total Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands occupied since 1967 to allow the region to live in peace, the ambassador said. He said France supports the Palestinian people in their endeavours to regain their legitimate rights.

"Over the past 20 years, France has not deviated from this course of policy regardless of the governments in power," Mr. Leclercq added. He said: "Therefore France will not introduce any changes in its official policy following a victory by the rightist parties in the elections."

"We would like to assure the Arab people that France will pursue its role in an independent capacity or within the European and the international communities and the United Nations Security Council to try to find solutions to Middle East problems," the ambassador stressed. Mr. Leclercq said that France will continue the search for a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and will make every possible attempt to achieve that goal.

Hostages in Lebanon

In reply to a question, Mr. Leclercq said that the French people, regardless of the type of government they have, are unified in their stand with regard to the question of the French hostages in Beirut. "We are determined to bring about a release of the hostages and we hope to make this very clear to all the Lebanese factions and all parties in Lebanon," he added.

On the question of Lebanon, the ambassador said: "France respects Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity and independence and also backs all efforts by the Lebanese to find a solution to their problems. I am sure that the new government of France will lay down a policy along these principles because France maintains a special relationship with the Lebanese people," the ambassador said.

The ambassador concluded by saying that he was quite impressed by Jordan's interest in the French elections which, he said, means anything that happens in France is regarded of real significance to this region. "This is quite important," he added, "because France attaches special importance to its relations with the Middle East and both sides have a common denominator, since they belong to the same geographic group around the Mediterranean. This gives us a feeling of solidarity with the peoples of this region." The ambassador said that he was pleased to see that this feeling of solidarity is being reciprocated by the Arab countries at large.

Breakdancers raise JD 7,000 for national cancer centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan Tuesday received a cheque for JD 7,000, the proceeds of four performances in Amman by an American breakdancing group, Magnificent Force from the South Bronx in New York City. The cheque was handed to GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib by U.S. Ambassador in Amman Paul Becker.

The group, which arrived here from Bahrain on March 1, presented performances at the Palace of Culture under the sponsorship of the American Centre and the National Fund for the Aml Cancer Centre.

At the presentation ceremony, Dr. Khatib voiced GUVS' appreciation to the American troupe for the contribution which, he said, will be used to help finance the establishment of the national Aml cancer centre in Jordan.

Dr. Khatib recalled that the

American Centre had earlier arranged for a team from the Jordanian Centre to tour a number of cancer centres in the United States to acquaint themselves with the systems and services and to benefit from their experience in running the projected Jordanian centre. The ambassador voiced his satisfaction and delight that the U.S. has been able to contribute to the establishment of the Jordanian centre which will offer humanitarian services to cancer victims.

According to a GUVS spokesman, work on the project will start early next year at the University of Jordan's premises. The initial stage of the project, he said, is expected to cost JD 1 million of which JD 500,000 has so far been raised through donations. The spokesman also said that GUVS plans to launch a three-day campaign on April 30 to collect further contributions for the project.

GUVS approves 1986 budget, reviews activities of past year

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Amman Municipality Tuesday approved the union's JD 170,000 budget for last year and endorsed the union's 1986 draft budget of JD 237,000 in a meeting chaired by the union's president, Mr. Fakhri Al Bilbeisi.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting said that the main activities of the union in 1985 centred around supporting voluntary societies and their activities, in the organisation of bazaars, fund raising events and participation in various other social activities.

The union also assisted in sup-

plying children's libraries with books, introducing computers to some of the kindergartens which are owned by the union and establishing the "one-plastre a day-campaign."

GUVS also organised training workshops for social leaders and kindergarten teachers and carried out a survey on the role of voluntary societies in social work. The union also started work on phase one of its permanent site building which is to be built on a total area of 1,600 square metres. This building will house the administrative and financial department for voluntary societies and will serve as the union's headquarters.

Salt police round up thieves

SALT (J.T.) — Police in Salt have apprehended a robber who broke into several public organisations, government departments and private businesses. The 30-year old thief, identified only as M.A.M.K., admitted that he had been breaking and entering since 1982.

According to Brigadier Ghaleb Dumur, the director of police in Balqa region, the arrested man had committed 13 thefts and robberies including breaking into the Department of Social Development, two schools, the electricity company's offices and a centre for the distribution of cement in Salt. One of the complaints was registered at the police department in Salt on Feb. 27, 1986 by the director of the social development office who said that a burglar had entered the building by breaking a window, Brig. Dumur said.

He continued that on March 13, a butcher in Salt complained to the police that his store had been broken into and that JD 35 was missing from a drawer. The police rounded up some suspects and their homes were searched, leading to the arrest of the thief who

admitted committing the robberies, Brig. Dumur added. He said police found tools which the thief had used to carry out his break-ins and burglaries.

During interrogation, the thief admitted to stealing large sums of money over the past four years and named different places he had broken into, mostly at night.

Apart from taking cash, the thief admitted to stealing different items worth at least JD 1,500.

According to Brig. Dumur, several robberies were reported to have occurred in Balqa region since the beginning of this year and one of those apprehended was an Egyptian who admitted stealing a total of 1800 Egyptian pounds from his friends and acquaintances. The thief, aged 28 and identified as A.T.H. said he had been committing the thefts in collaboration with his younger brother.

Brig. Dumur said that the police department in Balqa has also apprehended two groups of youngsters who were stealing clothes, electrical appliances and other items from a number of stores and homes.

TCC plans to increase operating range of radio telephones in cars

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has plans to increase the coverage of its radio telephone system in private cars from the present 35 kilometre radius around Amman, to cover the whole Kingdom, Communications Minister Muhieddine Al Hussein said Tuesday.

The TCC's nation-wide radio telephone service will be implemented in the first quarter of 1987, Mr. Hussein, who is also chairman of TCC board of directors, told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Japan's Nippon Electric Company (NEC) is currently conducting the expansion study and plan in cooperation with the corporation. The existing system, which was launched last September at a cost of JD 5 million and installed by Japan's C. Itoh & Company, has 2,000 units expandable to 10,000 units and it operates within a 35 kilometre radius of Amman.

Loans

The project, financing for which was secured from non-Jordanian funds in the form of long-term loans, has at present collected JD two million and proved to be "a very successful and civilised project," said the minister.

"The TCC is meeting its financial dues — in the form of interest rates and parts of the paid up capital — on time," he added. When the radio telephone system was first introduced last September it faced various problems and the figure of subscriptions was below the expected level due to the high cost of the installation and annual subscription fees. Until the end of December, there were approximately 150 subscribers enjoying radio telephone services from their private cars.

However, a January cabinet decision which introduced major cuts in the installation and annual subscription fees from JD 3,000 to JD 1,000 and from JD 750 to JD 500 respectively encouraged more subscriptions. The cabinet also cancelled a JD 700 insurance fee.

The TCC, the minister said, is at present offering its radio telephone services to 550 subscribers and he added that an average of five connections are made each day.

There are hundreds of other subscribers wishing to benefit from this service and they are on the TCC's waiting list since the installation of radio telephone devices takes more time than regular telephone connections, he explained.

The minister indicated that subscribers who paid the earlier fees — before the January cabinet decision — have also benefited from the decision since the differences between the old and new fees will be directly deducted from their monthly dues.

New procedure for telephone bills

In another development, Mr. Hussein said that the TCC has adopted a new procedure to collect unpaid monthly telephone bills from 1986. Under the new regulations, the TCC will grant regular telephone subscribers a maximum of 45 days to settle their monthly bills, from the date of issuing that bill.

If subscribers fail to meet their payment deadline, their telephones will be immediately disconnected and will only be reconnected once subscribers have settled their dues and have paid a JD 5 reconnection fee.

"This is a very fair decision since it grants beneficiaries enough time to settle their monthly accounts," he said. Mr. Hussein noted that this new order will also stop the accumulation of monthly



Muhieddine Al Hussein

telephone bills thus prevent a repeat of the 1984, 1985 phone bill collection problems, which caused inconveniences for both the TCC and subscribers.

Last February, the TCC disconnected more than 10,000 telephone lines belonging to subscribers who failed to settle their 1984 and 1985 telephone accounts. The total amount due from subscribers was JD 6 million.

Mr. Hussein, who did not give any figures on the sum of money TCC has collected during the February campaign, said that a large amount of the JD 6 million has been collected. Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times that the TCC collected more than JD 30,000 from re-connecting more than 6,000 telephone lines after the February campaign.

Mayors, local council heads visit project sites in Aqaba

AQABA (J.T.) — Participants in the municipalities conference, which opened in Aqaba Saturday, Tuesday made an inspection tour of the economic and industrial projects in the port city. They visited the Jordan Fertiliser Industries Company, the Marine science station, which is run by the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University, and projects being carried out by the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA).

The mayors and heads of village councils Monday evening met with representatives of voluntary societies and clubs at a reception held in honour of the participants in the conference. Speakers representing different organisations in Aqaba paid tribute to the role played by municipal and village

councils in the development of the country.

Also Monday, the participants discussed a working paper on the role of local councils in protecting the environment by disposing of garbage properly and supervising the activities of slaughterhouses. They also discussed combating rodents and other pests as well as the harmful effects of industrial waste on the environment. Participants also reviewed a working paper on traditional Islamic architecture.

There was another working paper presented by Dr. Mohamad Ghazawi from the University of Jordan. The paper dealt with the regulations of local councils, municipal elections and financial and administrative matters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab legal specialist arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Mohammad Miko, director of the Arab Centre for Research in Legal and Judicial Affairs, arrived in Amman Tuesday for a visit to Jordan expected to last several days. Mr. Miko is expected to meet with Justice Minister Riyad Al Shalca'a to discuss an agenda for the Arab Justice Ministers' Council meeting due to open in Rabat, Morocco, on April 14. He will also meet with Jordanian judges and visit courts to familiarise himself with their procedures and systems.

Petra director leaves for Marakesh

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Jawad Maraqa, the director general of the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, left for Marakesh Tuesday to take part in a meeting of a committee grouping directors of Arab and foreign news agencies. The committee is expected to discuss a number of subjects including training courses for journalists and meetings between Arab newspaper editors and their American, British and European colleagues. The meeting will be a follow up to another one held in London last October.

Yarmouk to attend talks on chemistry

AMMAN (Petra) — Yarmouk University's Chemistry Department will participate in the 13 conference on chemistry in support of development which will open at the Salah Eddine University in Iraq on March 21. The university's delegation will include assistant professor at the department, Dr. Sultan Abu Urabi, and Sami Khader, a chemist and a member of the Jordan Chemistry Society's executive committee. Dr. Abu Urabi will submit a paper on chemical reactions and studies on the compounds of petrol.

Jerash club holds exhibition

JERASH (Petra) — The Young Women's Club in Jerash has organised an exhibition on the twin anniversaries of Karamah Day and Family Day on March 21. On display at the week-long exhibition are paintings and flower arrangements, national costumes, photographs of the battle of Karamah and handicrafts. The opening ceremony was attended by officials and invited guests.

AAU concludes meetings

(Continued from page 1)

in Amman. The formation of a special committee to determine equivalents of degrees gained from foreign universities was also recommended. The committee was charged to prepare a guidebook to include names of such universities and to be distributed at Arab universities.

The participants also agreed to name the University of Jordan as a centre for university thesis for post graduates in the Arab World.

Another recommendation cal-

led for convening a pan-Arab sports festival for university students. The University of Jordan was elected to host the first festival.

The Amman session also reviewed the budget for printing an Arab World atlas, currently under preparation.

At the end of the session, the participants suggested sending a cable of appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for hosting the AAU meeting in Jordan.

Palme murder suspect is rightist

(Continued from page 1)

through a reverse mirror at police headquarters on Monday, had failed to pick out the suspect on an identification stand.

Mr. Palme was shot in the back with a powerful 357-calibre Magnum revolver as he and his wife walked unguarded through downtown Stockholm on Feb. 28. His wife was grazed by a bullet.

Stockholm Police Commissioner Hans Holmer said on Monday he had asked for West German help to determine if the man could have fired the 357 revolver used in the killing. Police said analysts at the West German federal criminal office in

Wiesbaden expected to complete tests in a few days of the clothes worn by the Swede.

Expressen reported on Monday that preliminary tests in Swedish laboratories indicated that there were gunpowder stains on the murder suspect's jacket but that West German experts could provide a more thorough analysis.

The court will rule on Thursday on whether the evidence produced so far is sufficient to justify Gunnarsson's continued detention. Gunnarsson followed Mr. Palme on a visit to Denmark in 1983, a Danish newspaper said Tuesday.

Why not establish a relationship with one of Jordan's oldest friends?

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Unholy row over India's sacred river

For more than a decade India has been diverting huge amounts of water from the River Ganges for its own purposes, to the fury of Bangladesh and Nepal. Now, John Elliott reports, an effort to solve the problems has been started — which may take another 15 years.

NEW DELHI — Indian and Bangladeshi officials will shortly start measuring the massive flow of water in the sacred River Ganges near Calcutta in an attempt to settle a major dispute which may not finally be resolved until after the year 2000.

Their findings could help to heal one of South Asia's most intractable sources of tension, which also raises international questions about the rights of countries to have a say in how neighbours tap the flow of rivers. They could also lead to major dam and canal projects costing, according to some estimates, as much as \$15 billion over the next 15 to 20 years.

Sharing the waters of major rivers like the Ganges and Indus has been a cause of controversy on the Indian subcontinent for many years. In the late 1940s India and Pakistan had disputes over sharing the massive River Indus and southern states in India are now battling over their local economically important rivers.

The Ganges dispute is souring relations between India and two of its neighbours — Nepal, whose mountains provide the Ganges with up to 70 per cent of its flow, and Bangladesh, which needs more water.

"Water is the major issue between us," says Mr. Anasul Mahmood, Minister for Irrigation in Bangladesh. He hopes that the new mood of co-operation in the region introduced by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, will help solve a problem that began to build up 35 years ago when India first proposed building the massive Farakka barrage on the Ganges just above Calcutta.

For most of the years since Farakka was opened in 1975, for what was euphemistically described as a

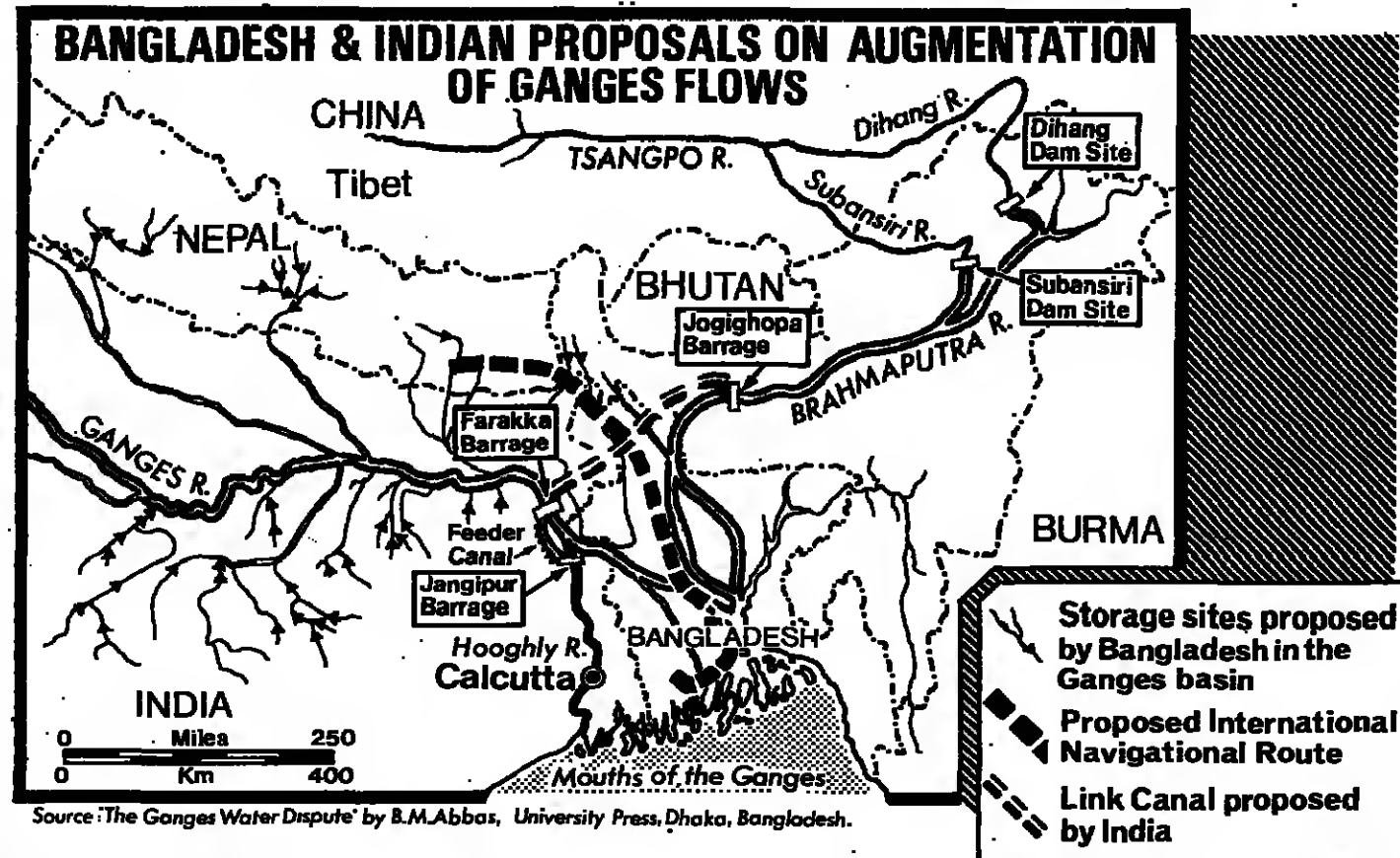
trial run, many thousand cubic feet of water have been diverted away from Bangladesh and down India's short Hooghly River to the sea. Since 1975 India has done little to help Bangladesh, which complains that loss of Ganges water has caused major salinity problems up to 200 miles inland. India is supremely powerful in the dispute because it can find domestic funds to carry out its own water projects. Bangladesh has no funds of its own and has to rely on the World Bank and other international agencies, which are refusing to lend it money until the basic dispute is solved.

When the late Mrs. Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister, India's determination to dominate the region and stop any of its smaller neighbours combining against it meant that no progress was made and no talks were held with either Nepal or Bangladesh.

Following last December's summit in Bangladesh which set up the South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation, Mr. Gandhi said that he was prepared to hold joint talks with both countries. This statement worried his officials, who are emphasising that he also said such talks would need considerable preparation. The detailed measuring of the flow at Farakka is the first step in those preparations and the work is expected to take ten months.

The Ganges rises 23,000 ft. up on the southern slopes of the Himalayas in north-western India and then winds its sacred path eastwards along the top of India, gathering major urban pollution, now being tackled by Mr. Gandhi.

After turning southwards over



the Farakka barrage, the Ganges flows to the sea through Bangladesh where it is joined by another river at the centre of the controversy. This is the Brahmaputra, which rises in China and flows eastwards as the Tsangpo River, then suddenly turning back on itself through the farthest north-eastern states of India and finally southwards through Bangladesh to the Ganges and the sea.

The Farakka barrage was built to push 40,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of Ganges water down the Hooghly to Calcutta. Since the flow of the Ganges in the leanest month of April is only 55,000 cusecs, this leaves only 15,000 cusecs for Bangladesh, which says it needs and has a right to all the 55,000 cusecs. The primary issue is how to increase the flow of the Ganges so that India has enough water to clean Calcutta port and Bangladesh has

enough in the four or five lean months each year to push back the salt of the Bay of Bengal. Land-locked Nepal has its own separate primary interest — to establish a navigable waterway to the Bay of Bengal.

For all three countries, major projects would provide spin-off advantages of hydroelectricity, flood control, and irrigation, boosting the region's poor electricity supplies and helping to solve the problem, specially acute in Bangladesh, where large areas swing rapidly during the year from desert to flood plains. For many years Bangladesh has had plans to put storage dams in the upper reaches of the Ganges but these were always resisted by India which refused to spare the land.

India refused to let Nepal be drawn into the issue with Bangladesh and proposed construction of a 200-mile-long canal,

half a mile wide and 30 ft. deep, to carry 100,000 cusecs of water across Bangladesh from the under-utilised Brahmaputra to the Ganges just above Farakka. This would probably cost at least \$20 billion.

The scheme was rejected by Bangladesh which complained it would cut its country in half and could be controlled solely by India. It could also cause flooding if its walls burst into any of the 18 rivers it would cross.

The debate became deadlocked until last year when Mr. Gandhi and President Ershad of Bangladesh renewed a 1982 temporary agreement on sharing the waters and authorized the study of the water flows that is just starting.

There are now three possible solutions. The simplest but hardest for Bangladesh would be for it to give up all its claims to the Ganges and to rely for its water on

developing the Brahmaputra which would be forsaken by India.

A second compromise would involve India having the bulk of the canal and promising Bangladesh extra Ganges water when Nepal allowed it to build dams. This would probably require a higher level of personal commitment and political leadership than Gen. Ershad could deliver.

The third and cheapest solution would be for Bangladesh and India to agree to share the existing water and to abandon, at least for the time being, all plans to augment the Ganges. That at least would clear the way for the World Bank to carry out a feasibility study for future projects. "It is a very long term problem; there are no quick solutions, we are really talking for the next century," says a World Bank official — Financial Times feature.

Cooperation can make or break a union and a company

By Hideo Kohtoku

TOKYO — "Improvement of the living standard of the workers of Toyota Motor Co. and the company's development are inseparable."

When Saburo Suzuki, chairman of the Toyota Trade Union, said those words in a speech at a party last January, commemorating the company's 40th anniversary, Toyota Motor Co. President Shojiro Toyoda, who attended the party, bowed his head in satisfied assent.

Suzuki and Toyoda then jointly opened a cask of Japanese sake before 500 guests from the political, business and union worlds. Chatting with several guests, Toyoda later said, "Amid severe international competition for securing a market for subcompact cars, we are now faced with the most difficult situation yet, mainly due to the increasing competitive edge of South Korea and the increasing value of the yen. All Toyota men have to unite."

Hearing Toyoda's words, Suzuki nodded his head in agreement.

American George Nemo, who was invited to the party, is a member of the United Auto Workers of America. He commented, "We have to learn more about the cooperative posture shown by the management and labour of Toyota." Then he added that "It seems very strange."

This may be a typical opinion

frankly expressed by a member of the UAW, which has a long history of struggling with management to gain improved working conditions.

Toyota's cooperation between management and labour is not a mere show. All agree that labour's cooperation has greatly contributed to the fact that Toyota has grown to be the world's second-largest automaker and Japan's largest. A good example is the annual wage negotiation.

Last year, Toyota raised a huge ordinary profit of 640 billion yen (\$3.6 billion). One of the management staff said that "Due to such an achievement we can accept any request made by the trade union."

Management and labour easily reached agreement on a 12,000 yen (\$65) monthly increase, 5.62 per cent over the previous year. It was considered an appropriate figure considering the overall condition of the auto industry.

The wage increase of Toyota was only 400 yen (about \$2.20) more than that of Nissan Motor Co. on a monthly basis. Nissan had an ordinary profit of 148 billion yen (\$813 million) — far less than Toyota's.

Critics have said Toyota should help expand domestic demand by giving higher wages to its workers, thus setting an industrial trend.

But Shiro Umemura, chairman of the All-Toyota Trade Union consisting of all unions in the Toyota group, said, "The dev-

elopment of the company is also very important for unionists. Since Toyota is now pushing forward a great project of independent production of cars in the United States, we cannot call for a large wage increase. What is important now is to improve working conditions steadily, and from a long perspective, rather than drastically."

Snow Brand Foods Co., a subsidiary of Snow Brand Milk Products producing hams and sausages, has decided the wage and bonuses for its workers based on a management programme jointly planned by management and labour for the past five years.

Eight branches of the Snow Brand union in Japan each estimate sales, production cost, personnel cost, sales cost, and real profit for the next year. The figures are discussed in negotiations between management and labour, and a plan is drawn up that includes automatic wage increases.

The Snow Brand Foods' trade union does not, therefore, follow the guidance on wage increases put out by the National Federation of Food Industry Workers' Unions although it is a member. Snow Brand Foods workers say monthly salaries jump an average 9,770 yen (\$53.68) and the yearly bonuses grow to 867,000 yen (\$4,765).

One of the unionists said participation in the development of such a scheme gives workers an incentive to work.

In sharp contrast, the trade union of Takasago Tekko, a medium-sized, Tokyo-based stainless steel processing company belonging to Nippon Steel Group, has been locked in combat with management for the past three decades. Strikes often took place and would last one or two weeks.

During the strikes, another stainless steel company next to Takasago, which takes a conciliatory line between management and labour, took Takasago's customers.

The chairman of Takasago trade union complains that the other company matches without a fight the wage increases his union wins through strikes. "Ten years ago," he adds, "their company was similar to ours in terms of scale and other points. At present, however, they earn more than twice the profits we do and they have two times the number of workers. I have to wonder whether my strategy has really been favourable."

Kaoru Ohta, former chairman of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan, established the so-called "spring wage offensive," a strategy designed to achieve a near-uniform pattern of annual wage increases throughout Japanese industry. The offensive is concentrated in April and May.

Ohta recalls, "The spring wage offensive, aimed at gaining sharp wage increases through struggle against management, was dev-

eloped by a variety of industry unions almost simultaneously throughout the nation. Currently, however, trade unions put up with relatively low wage increases. The negotiations are no longer an offensive, but resemble consultations with management."

An economic analyst pointed out that the qualitative change of the spring wage offensive can be attributed to several changes in the Japanese economy.

First, Japan's economy has changed from high growth to one of low growth. The workforce, which was once insufficient in the era of high economic growth in the 1960s, is now running a surplus. Significance has been put on goods before, but services are considered of more importance now.

With the advent of the affluent society, people increasingly regard a company as a place for self-realisation rather than a place to earn money.

Kingo Nakada, secretary-general of the trade union of Isecan Department Store, said, "Unionists are no longer simple labourers. They are no longer satisfied with a strategy that only calls for wage increases. It is necessary for a trade union to offer unionists information useful for their job and to reinforce the welfare system."

He says Isecan's trade union makes it a policy to check the company's activities as an independent organisation and at the

same time to cooperate with the company. The trade union takes part in the quality-control movement developed by management and has not struck since its founding 40 years ago.

Using 700 million yen (\$3.8 million) accumulated as strike funds, the trade union has bought a 15,000-square-metre plot of land in the countryside and constructed a dilapidated house for unionists with tennis courts and saunas.

The good relations between management and labour has had a paradoxical effect on Japan's workers. They have been able to help their companies maintain an edge in the competition on the international market but at the same time have not enjoyed a large income since profits are plowed back into the company.

According to the Ministry of Labour's survey on wage increases of leading private enterprises, the average wage increase maintained a two-digit rate during the high-growth period. That included a whopping 32.9 per cent hike in 1974. It declined to 13.1 per cent in 1975 and has run below 10 per cent since. Last year's average was 5.03 per cent.

The number of private companies with trade unions that reported to strikes or other strategic measures has decreased from the 1974 high of 9,213 to 2,152 in 1984 — Asahi News Service, Tokyo.

New equipment for Germany's modern alchemists

By Rolf S. Simen

THREE times already, scientists from the Society for Heavy Ion Research, Darmstadt, have "created" for the mere fraction of a second hitherto unknown chemical elements — for which the experts have unequivocal evidence: we are referring to the elements 107 and 109 in 1981 and 1982 and the element 108 in 1984. They are far heavier than uranium and have the atomic number 92, with which Nature concluded her variety of elements on earth. These successes, which caused a sensation around the globe, were achieved with Unilac, a linear accelerator, which is now to become part of a far more efficient research plant.

In 1985, Dr. Heinz Riesenhuber, Federal Minister of Research and Technology, gave the go-ahead for the expansion of the Society of Heavy Ion Research, known as GSI for short. At a cost of DM 275 million, this plant is to be completed by 1989, thus safeguarding the leading position enjoyed by German heavy ion research world-wide over the past ten years. A circular accelerator, some 60 metres in diameter, is to be built: this accelerator (known as a synchrotron) will be combined with a storage ring about half its size. The 120-metre-long Unilac will assume the role of an

injector in this combination, supplying high-energy heavy ion rays. It will deliver them at 20 million electrovolts per fundamental nuclear particle — as the energy mass in called — into the synchrotron, where they will then be accelerated to no less than 1.3 billion electrovolts per fundamental nuclear particle. The new and unique feature about the proposed plant is the combination of synchrotron and storage ring, since only through them is optimum fine tuning of one or two heavy ion rays to the experiments concerned possible.

In a way, the heavy ion researchers are practising modern alchemy — and not only that. They can, for instance, make gold out of quicksilver and platinum out of gold — if only in "uneconomic" quantities of a few dozen atoms. This is possible by performing a sort of surgery on the atomic nuclei, whose combination of basic proton and neutron elements indicates their chemical properties in each case: if a proton is extracted from a gold atom, the result is a platinum atomic nucleus. The scalpel for such operations is a high-energy heavy ion ray — backed by the idea, in turn, that the smallest particles of matter can be best influenced, smashed, or transformed, by similar particles — and thus studied from various angles.

Accordingly, heavy ions are the nuclei of heavy atoms (including uranium) which have been liberated from their electron shell and consequently electrically charged. On account of this charge they can be accelerated with electrical forces and then, by means of accurately coordinated impetus, made to interact with other

incidentally, still have no name. Their brief "spell of life" is overshadowed by the fascinating question of why Nature chose uranium in particular as the heaviest element with which to conclude her creative activity on earth. There is a further question: Just how far can the advance towards the frontiers of the material world

chemical element system also include an inward glance, penetrating the structure of the atomic nuclei and seeking to identify the forces assembled there. In 1981, for example, a new type of radio-activity — known as proton decay from the basic state — was discovered at GSI during the synthesis and examination of the decay of neutron-starved nuclei. It even proved possible to create things which do not exist, e.g. an atom with the incredibly high number of 188 — a super-heavy ghost-atom. It came into being for a short time during the collision of a heavy ion with another atom whereby they united under a joint electron shell. When investigating nuclear particles in the highest electrical fields, initial indications of a "collapse of the vacuum" were discovered as far back as 1980.

By means of the expanded installation, research is to be primarily carried out into nuclear matter itself. Here, three fundamental forces are of special importance, called by the experts the strong, the electro-magnetic, and the weak interaction. Together with gravitation they determine the whole outward appearance of the material world. By bombarding heavy atomic nuclei with energy-laden heavy ions of this type — as can only be pro-

There is a further question: Just how far can the advance towards the frontiers of the material world go? Some theorists continue to assume the presence of this or that island of material stability in the sea of Mother Nature's possibilities — such as longlife, super heavy elements in the region of atomic number 114 — and even more audacious — atomic numbers in the region of 164.

atoms located in the target area. In this way, heavy ion physics examines, in the widest sense, the various processes which occur when high-energy ions penetrate matter.

The results obtained are not only sensational because of the successful synthesis of the elements 107, 108 and 109 — which,

go? Some theorists continue to assume the presence of this or that island of material stability in the sea of Mother Nature's possibilities — such as longlife super heavy elements in the region of atomic number 114 — and even more audacious — atomic numbers in the region of 164. The proposed extension of the

Declaring war on Africa's decline

By Celia Curtis

A PLAN of action to reverse Africa's economic decline and ecological deterioration is proposed in a report on the State of the World 1986 published last month (February) by the Worldwatch Institute in Washington.

Warning that Africa is losing its ability to feed itself, it suggests that the only successful economic development strategy will be one that restores the natural systems on which the economy depends. Millions of people must plant trees, build soil conservation terraces and plan smaller families.

"More capital will be needed, much more, but the heart of the reversal strategy will be the mobilisation of the people," says the report, which points to the Kenya model of soil conservation and new farming practices which increase the land's vegetative cover and reduce the likelihood of severe erosion.

It sees the restoration of Africa's woodlands and forests as essential to the recovery of agriculture on which the continent's economic prospects depend. It supports a World Bank proposal for the provision of a tree nursery in every market centre in Africa. Aid donors would have to acknowledge the needs and defer to the judgement of the rural people who will do the bulk of the planting, maintenance and forest management.

"These 380 million men, women and children in the countryside constitute the only labour force large enough to turn Africa's forest decline around."

Declaring that traditional cultivation practices can no longer sustain the momentum of population growth, it advocates a revolution in farming systems that will take African agriculture back to its cultural and climatic roots — a savanna agriculture, patterned on the natural vegetation that it replaces, integrating crops, livestock and trees.

Such agroforestry methods can be tailored to the desiccated Sahel and the moist farmlands of equatorial and coastal West Africa. Their universal appeal is reduced soil erosion, increased nutrient cycling and biological activity in topsoil and drought resilience.

Most important, on the agricultural front, it says that local people must be involved in setting up programmes to raise productivity.

In 1984, 140 million of Africa's 531 million people were fed entirely with grain from abroad, and food imports claimed 20 per cent of total export earnings. The region's cereal import bill rose by ninefold in the decade up to 1983.

Africa's agriculture is widely neglected and international aid programmes have focused on specific projects to the detriment of food pricing policies. Even the World Bank admits its failure in this respect.

Africa's plight is partly rooted in its phenomenal rate of population growth — the fastest of any continent in history — says Lester Brown, President of the Worldwatch Institute and co-author of the report. Death rates were reduced with the introduction of public health measures and vaccinations, but in the absence of parallel efforts to reduce birth rates, overall population

growth is accelerated. According to U.N. projections, Africa's 1980 population of just under 500 million will reach 1.5 billion by the year 2025 — a tripling within just 45 years.

Changing public attitudes on reducing birth rates depends on strong leadership and nearly all Africa's leaders have until recently regarded population growth as an asset not a threat. In their view, Africa was too sparsely populated and they failed to recognise that Africa's soils are often thin and that much of the continent is arid or semi-arid.

This view is now changing, says the report, as more African leaders sense the desperation inherent in existing population trends. One sign of new concern is a surge in requests to both the U.N. Fund for Population Activities and the World Bank for family planning assistance from African governments in the past two years. Within 10 years up to 1984 the number of sub-Saharan countries with population policies rose from two to 13. Zimbabwe's family planning programme is the most vigorous, it says. In that country some 21 per cent of married women of reproductive age practice contraception and a free family planning service is available to those earning less than \$150 per year.

It cites World Bank estimates that the adoption of a "rapid" fertility decline goal in sub-Saharan Africa would require a twentyfold increase in family planning spending by the year 2000 — 16 per cent a year. This would be offset by reduced public spending in other sectors. For instance, savings in education costs alone in the year 2000 would reach \$6 or more per capita in Zimbabwe.

The report suggests too that family planning programmes can only succeed by offering a full range of contraceptives and sterilisation for men and women. It sees the adoption of a two-child family as a social goal — a vital factor in restoring a sustained improvement in living standards.

To continue a "business as usual" policy towards Africa would write off its future, says Lester Brown. "Without a massive mobilisation of resources, the prospect of reversing the decline in per capita grain production is poor, suggesting that famine will become chronic and an enduring feature of the African landscape."

Assessing the contenders for the job of coordinating the necessary international effort, he considers that the United States lacks the necessary qualities — "even if it had the will." African institutions are not yet capable and the World Bank, though not ideally suited, is best equipped to assist individual countries in outlining a national development strategy to set the stage for the resumption of growth in per capita food production and income.

He points out that industrial countries should be motivated by self-interest as the ecological degradation of Africa puts pressures on the ability to repay the continent's external debt, an estimated \$170 billion at the end of 1985.

In his opinion, the greatest risk in Africa is loss of hope. "However bleak the deteriorating situation may appear, it is of human origin and can yield to human remedy." — People feature.

Giotto mission wins Europe entry to space club

By Douglas Hamilton

BONN — Through its probe of Halley's comet the European Space Agency (ESA) has joined the U.S. and the Soviet Union in an exclusive club of interplanetary explorers.

Its Giotto spacecraft grazed the comet and sent back five pictures in the first of the agency's projects to have wide public appeal.

The space drama related to the agency's Operations Control Centre in Darmstadt, south of Frankfurt, was beamed live to at least 36 countries on all five continents and, in a notable switch, the major U.S. television networks were guests, rather than hosts, to the spectacle.

Established in 1973 and based in Paris, ESA groups France, Britain, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Denmark, Ireland, Spain, Norway, Sweden and Austria.

It gambled some \$300 million on the mission, conceived over six years ago and launched — by a European Ariane rocket — last July from the European Space Centre at Kourou in French Guiana.

Giotto laid to rest the ancient myths of Halley's comet, an object of fear through the ages, and revealed its core to be mantled in velvety dust blacker than soot, spewing jets from strange nozzles, wreathed in a twisting storm of currents and studded with hills and craters.

The scientific discoveries and the effect of live television proved

an intoxicating mixture. West German Technology Minister Heinz Riesenhuber called the mission the most important event in space research since the landing on the moon.

ESA scientists would not go as far as saying Europe now rivalled the superpowers in space, but their hand-written "we did it" signs in the space centre spoke volumes.

Officials said privately Europe's interplanetary debut probably could not help but be contrasted by the public with the problems besetting the U.S. space programme.

The explosion of the space shuttle Challenger seconds after launch on January 28 rocked the confidence of the U.S. space community, sparking allegations of dangerous complacency.

The grounding of U.S. shuttle flights is already proving a windfall for the Ariane programme, which is being accelerated from eight to a maximum of 12 launches per year to accommodate commercial clients who want their satellites in orbit on time.

"Giotto is an excellent example of how Europe can operate on the same scale as the superpowers, employing technology even higher in some aspects than their standards," British Aerospace deputy operations chief Hugh Metcalfe told Reuters.

"In terms of technological capability, Europe is now ahead in some areas, but funding prevents us from undertaking the same range of projects as the Americans," Metcalfe added.

Juventus, Barcelona square off in Turin

TURIN, Italy (R) — Terry Venables and Giovanni Trapattoni swapped threats in the manner of boxers warming up for a title fight Tuesday as Barcelona and Juventus prepared for Wednesday's European Cup showdown.

The two giants of European football will attract a crowd of over 70,000 to the Stadio Comunale for a quarter-final second leg tie which has been dubbed "the final before the final."

"I have worked out how to break Juventus... how to combat their aggression," said Venables, who is well aware Barcelona's one-goal first-leg lead will be under threat in Turin.

Juventus manager Trapattoni, confidently brushing aside his injury worries, spelled out his battle plan when he said: "We have studied Barcelona carefully. My plan is to get a quick goal, as early as possible... I'm optimistic."

Trapattoni's 47th birthday celebrations Monday were soured by fears for the fitness of several key players and the taste of defeat in the Italian league on Sunday.

Striker Aldo Serena, who missed the first leg through sus-

pension, has a thigh injury which is expected to keep him out of action for the rest of the season and winger Massimo Briaschi, who limped off in the 22nd minute in Barcelona, is still unfit.

Stopper Stefano Pioli is also ruled out and defender Massimo Bonini is in doubt. But captain Gaetano Scirea, a driving force in the first leg, hopes to be back after injuring his knee in the defeat at Roma on Sunday.

Roma's 3-0 victory — only the second the league leaders have suffered this season — betrayed the Turin side's anxiety about retaining the European Cup they won for the first time last year.

Trapattoni put the defeat down to nerves and dismissed suggestions the result boded ill. "We are ordinary mortals," he said. "Invincible heroes exist only in science fiction films."

Barcelona's traditionally robust

defence has much to fear from Juventus' expatriate stars Michel Platini and Michael Laudrup.

Venables admitted Platini had been foremost in his mind when he planned his team's strategy. "Against people like Platini it is useless to close down the game. It is far better to go out and attack."

While Trapattoni has been gloomily watching his lengthening list of injuries, Venables has the satisfaction of seeing several key players return to fitness after missing the first leg.

The squad which flew to Turin Monday night after being delayed by a Spanish airport staff strike included Ramon Caldera and Alonso Marcos, who were absent two weeks ago, and Francisco Carrasco.

Liverpool slips post Watford

LONDON (R) — Welsh striker Ian Rush swept Liverpool into the last four of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup Monday with an extra-time winner against Watford.

Rush struck three minutes into the second period of additional time to secure his side's semifinal clash with Southampton after the former European champions saved themselves from defeat with just four minutes remaining.

Liverpool, second in the First Division behind city-neighbours and fellow-semifinalists Everton, dominated the match but trailed 1-0 until the 86th minute when Dane Jan Molby levelled the quarter-final replay from the penalty spot after a foul on Rush by Watford goalkeeper Tony Coton.



West Germany's Steffi Graf

Graf outlasts Sabatini

NEW YORK (R) — Steffi Graf of West Germany Monday beat 15-year-old Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina 6-0 6-7 (5-7) 6-2 on the opening night of the \$500,000 women's tennis championships here.

The third-seeded Graf, 16, won a hard-fought battle between two of the brightest prospects in women's tennis, both playing for the first time in this 16-player, week-long season finale.

Graf and Sabatini fought a gr-

undstroke duel for just one minute under two hours, and in the closing stages it was physical conditioning that helped sway the tide.

"I thought she was going to get tired," said Graf, who meets the winner of Wednesday's match between Carling Bassett of Canada and American Pam Shriver.

"I knew she couldn't run that much more after the second set. I never thought I was going to lose the third set," Graf said.

Faria shrugs off loss to Egyptians

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Morocco's Brazilian soccer coach remains confident of his team's prospects in the May 31-June 29 World Cup despite a 1-0 loss to Egypt, which eliminated the favored North Africans from the African Cup of Nations.

"This result does not change anything concerning our confidence, our morale or our ambitions," Jose Faria told the Associated Press following Monday night's defeat.

"I still expect a qualification for the second round of the World Cup. Morocco can be the first African team to achieve this."

Despite being heavily favoured in the eight-team tournament, which began here March 7, the Moroccans were to match for the inspired Egyptians, playing before a sellout crowd of 100,000 wildly cheering home fans.

The match was marred by violent scenes at the end involving players and fans.

Egypt meets Cameroon on Friday in the African Cup championship match.

Monday's semifinal round was decided in the 79th minute when controversial Egyptian midfielder Taher Abou Zeid scored direct from a free kick.

"If we had managed to reach the overtime, we would have won," Faria said. "The Egyptians would not have been able to keep on attacking with this speed and this fierceness. But anyway, the better team won even if the match was a little bit too violent. Egypt's goal was scored by a player who should not have played and the match was cut short by two or three minutes."

Abou Zeid received two warnings in previous tournament matches, which normally brings a one-match automatic suspension. On Friday, however, the organising committee overruled Tan-

zanian referee Hafez El Tahir, who had given Abou Zeid his second yellow card for running off the field in celebration of his second goal against Mozambique.

Faria also criticised Ethiopian referee Geheysus Tesfaye. He said Tesfaye ignored some Egyptian fouls and stopped the match too early. The stadium clock showed 45 minutes when the referee whistled the end of the match but television's time was 45 minutes.

"I had 45 minutes on my wristwatch, too," Faria said. "But there had been a lot of interruptions for fouls and the referee should have let at least two or three minutes more in injury time."

At the end of the match, Morocco's players rushed toward the referee and exchanged some blows with security forces who had come down to the pitch to protect him. Some Egyptian fans threw debris from the grandstands.

"I do not want to imagine what would have happened if we had won," Morocco's centre forward Merry Krinau said.

Nevertheless, Faria said he and his players were satisfied by their performance in this African Cup. Welshman Mike Smith, who coaches the Egyptian team, said the Moroccans showed "an extremely well-organised defence."

"I am sure Morocco will do well in Mexico," Smith said Monday. "But tonight my players were pre-

pared to die on the field to take their revenge on a team which had eliminated them from the World Cup."

Morocco eliminated Egypt from the World Cup finals, which begin May 31 in Mexico City, with a pair of 1-0 victories in elimination rounds last year.

In Mexico, Morocco will compete in a group that also includes Portugal, Poland and England.

"The game there will be less violent and harsh," Faria said of the Mexico matches. "The technical aspects will have much more importance than the physical fitness. And that will be an advantage for us."

Azziz Bouderbala, the skillful striker from Switzerland's First Division side Sion, shared his coach's view.

"In African competition, a good player cannot show his skill. In Mexico, I will be able to play my game," said Bouderbala, whose dribbling and speed ranked him among the best players in the African Cup.

Two other leading players, Mohammed Timouni and Mustafa Haidamou, who missed the tournament because of injury, will strengthen Morocco during the World Cup.

"With all my best players and with good preparation, Morocco will be dangerous," Faria said.

Interclub bridge tourney gets underway in Jordan

By Najwa Najjar

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Interclub Bridge Tournament began here on March 7th and is expected to last for five months. The official body responsible for organising the tournament is the Jordan Bridge Association.

The Association invited clubs who have shown interest in bridge, and seven clubs are participating: Royal Automobile Club (RAC), United Kingdom Arab Students (UKAS), Orthodox Club, Urdun, Amman Ladies Duplicate Club, American University of Beirut Alumni Club, and College de la Salle Club. Some clubs have entered more than one team, and 14 teams overall, each with six players, are competing.

Teams will play once a week in different clubs, after the opening series, in which at the opening all teams played at the UKAS club. Each team will play two times against all the other teams. The games are played according to the International Bridge Tournament Olympic Regulations, and are managed by a director assigned by the Jordan Bridge Association.

Although there are different levels of players and different generations, all will be competing against each other.

At the end of the five month competition, cups will be given to those who place 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Special prizes will be awarded to players with distinguished playing abilities. Mr. Ghassan Ghanem, a member of the Jordan Bridge Association organising committee for the Interclub Bridge Tournament said that these matches, which are being played for the first time under the international regulations, offer a good opportunity for players to practice in long matches. Those involved with the interclub tournament will be considered for the Jordan national team, he added. Last year the team was accepted by the World Bridge Federation to participate in official international matches and 1986 will be the first year that the team will participate in international activities, but not official, in Egypt, Kuwait, Dubai, Cyprus, Greece, France, and Monte Carlo," concluded Mr. Ghanem.

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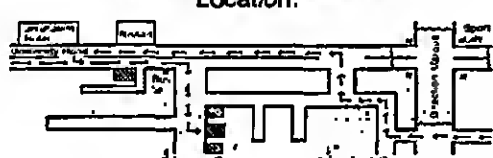
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THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY Invitation for Engineering Services for Wadi Araba Development Project

The Jordan Valley Authority is seeking the services of a suitably qualified international consultant to conduct a study of ground water resources development in Wadi Araba in order to introduce irrigated agriculture into the area and to improve social and economic conditions of the local population.

The consultants should associate with local consultants bureaux or companies to conduct the study.

The consultants will be required to submit technical and financial proposals.

Qualification of consultants will be carried out according to the terms of technical proposal as outlined in an invitation letter.

Terms of reference and invitation letter for the study are now available at the Jordan Valley Authority main offices at Jabal Amman, Third Circle, Ras Al Ain Street.

Tel: 641472

P.O. Box 2792, Amman - Jordan.
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Dr. Eng. Munther Haddadin
President.

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Additional information can be obtained from the Commodity Management Office, Mr. Wadi Awad (Ext. 421) or Mr. Antone Hinn (Ext. 439), Tel. 604171.

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U.S. aid to Contras may include Soviet weapons

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States may help Nicaragua's anti-Sandinista rebels buy Soviet-made SA7 anti-aircraft missiles on the black market if Congress approves military aid for them, the Washington Post reported Tuesday.

Citing unidentified Pentagon officials and government sources, the Post said the battle-tested SA7 is among the weapons Washington may buy for the rebels, called Contras, who are fighting Nicaragua's leftist government.

There was no immediate official comment. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has supplied money to buy Soviet SA7s on the black market for anti-government rebels in Afghanistan to help them battle Soviet helicopters there, the newspaper said.

In Nicaragua, the anti-aircraft missiles would be used against Soviet-made helicopters piloted by Sandinistas, it said.

A U.S. counterpart to the SA7, the General Dynamics Corp. shoulder-fired Redeye missile, may also be purchased for the Contras if Congress approves the aid package, the Post said.

Congress is currently debating a Reagan administration request for \$70 million in military aid and \$30 million in non-lethal aid for the Contras.

The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the packages Thursday, with opponents claiming to have a slight majority.

The New York Times quoted administration and congressional sources as saying the CIA was ready to supply the rebels with U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft missiles if Congress approved military aid.

The sources said the shoulder-fired Stingers were capable of hitting a helicopter more than three miles away and would be shipped to Honduras and turned over to the rebels as soon as possible, the paper reported.

House Democratic leaders said President Reagan's television appeal for support for Nicaraguan rebels has fallen flat and a new public opinion poll appeared to support their conclusion.

The poll, taken by ABC Television immediately after Mr. Reagan's broadcast on Sunday and released Monday night, showed 30 per cent of those questioned approved new military aid for the Contras while 54 per cent opposed it.

Ten days ago a similar poll showed 34 per cent of respondents favoured new aid and 59 per cent opposed it. In the latter poll, the number of undecided respondents doubled to 16 per cent, ABC said.

The poll, which has a margin of error of about five per cent, showed that 36 per cent of those questioned approved of Mr. Reagan's handling of the Nicaraguan situation while 48 per cent disapproved.

Mr. Reagan has often used television in past battles with Congress on major issues, successfully exerting pressure on doubting lawmakers to back his position.

Some congressional Republicans, along with the White House, said Monday that reaction from their constituents favoured Mr. Reagan and improved his chances of winning the vote on Thursday in the Democratic-controlled House.

But assistant Democratic House leader Thomas Foley, an opponent of the proposal, said he saw no evidence Mr. Reagan hurt his side's 12-16 vote advantage in the 435-member House.

"As far as I can tell the president's address has not impacted the vote in the House ... my very great confidence is we will win this vote on Thursday," he told reporters.

House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, leading opposition to the package, said his office had received 149 telephone calls opposing the aid package and 38 siding with Mr. Reagan.

Tony Coelho, another top House Democrat, said reaction from his constituents was heavier than normal after a presidential speech and had been running five-to-one against Mr. Reagan.

Meanwhile the Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda charged President Reagan Tuesday with trying to blackmail the U.S. Congress into granting \$100 million of aid to anti-government rebels in Nicaragua.

Pravda was commenting on an address by Mr. Reagan last Sunday in which he said Nicaragua was building a deep-water port with U.S. "communist aid and that the Sandinista government was turning the country into a command post for world terrorism."

"As if unaware that his country maintains diplomatic relations with the Managua government, Mr. Reagan called the Sandinistas 'a criminal regime' and imputed to them every mortal sin," Pravda said.

"Reagan went out of his way to blackmail the congressmen who, despite administration pressure, are unwilling to grant \$100 million in aid to the Contras," Pravda said.

Two white women and a child were hurt after blacks stoned and petrol-bombed passing cars at Groblersdal, 170 kilometres north east of Johannesburg, police said.

Whites have been largely immune to the protests.

The two-million-strong United Democratic Front (UDF), the major anti-apartheid group, warned Tuesday that Monday's budget was likely to result in further drops in employment and real wages.

"Together with this direct impact on the cost of living, the effects of this budget are likely to fuel political resistance rather than stem it," the UDF said in a statement.

The UDF said that South Africa had to make real changes to the race segregation system to solve the country's problems.

Finance Minister Du Plessis' budget gave more money to black education and housing while also handing out minor tax cuts to appease whites.

He also announced a 20 per cent rise in defence spending and a 12.2 per cent increase in the police budget. Counter-insurgency training jumped by 62 per cent.

Meanwhile, a group of Communist Party envoys met jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela in a prison near Cape Town last week, informed sources said Tuesday.

They were confirming press reports abroad of the meeting. The 68-year-old Mandela has been jailed for more than 20 years on charges of subversion and sabotage.

The sources gave no further details about the meeting.

Continued S. African violence claims 8 more lives

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Eight blacks died in tribal fighting and township violence overnight and two white women and a child were injured when they were caught up in South Africa's unrelenting anti-government protests.

The flare-up in violence came hours after Finance Minister Barnd Du Plessis presented a budget which the nation's main internal opposition group warned Tuesday was likely to fuel political resistance.

Anglo American Corporation said six miners were killed and eight injured Monday night in tribal fighting between Khossas and Basothos at Vaal Reef Gold Mine.

A spokesman said mine security intervened to stop the fighting in a black miners' hostel. The spokesman added that 1,250 men had Tuesday resigned from the mine.

Fourteen black miners died in unrest at gold mines over the weekend.

The latest violence brought to more than 43 the death toll in the 10 days since President P.W. Botha lifted emergency rule clamped on protest-torn areas of the country last July.

Police said one black man was killed overnight when police in Little Soweto township near the eastern Cape city of Port Elizabeth fired shotguns to drive off a crowd stoning and petrol-bombing patrols.

A black councillor who opened fire with a shotgun after a crowd stoned his car killed a black youth at Seikerville in the Orange Free State.

Two white women and a child were hurt after blacks stoned and petrol-bombed passing cars at Groblersdal, 170 kilometres north east of Johannesburg, police said.

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Kabul says it has worked out a plan with Moscow to withdraw the troops but will not reveal it until Islamabad agrees to direct talks.

The mediator, who visited Islamabad three times and Kabul twice to prepare another Geneva round, said he was confident the problem would be solved.

"I believe I have all the elements. There is no doubt about the readiness of my interlocutors to get down to negotiating that instrument," he said.

Mr. Cordovez declined to discuss how the timetable, which Afghan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost has said he would present on a "take-it-or-leave-it basis," would fit into the peace package.

Western diplomats say the relationship is crucial because Kabul might delay the pullout if it felt Islamabad was not stopping Pakistan-based rebels from attacking its troops.

Islamabad denies any ties to the rebels but guerrillas say they have training camps in Pakistan.

The indirect talks, which began in 1982, have already led to agreement on ways to end outside support for Muslim rebels fighting Kabul, international guarantees for a settlement and the repatriation of about 4.5 million Afghan refugees from Pakistan and Iran.

Soviet forces entered Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up the faltering Communist government and now number about 115,000.

Filipino rebel attacks claim 114 lives since Aquino took office

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — At least 114 people have been killed in attacks involving Communist rebels since President Corason Aquino took office, officials say, despite efforts to work out a cease-fire.

Three different clashes in the countryside were reported Tuesday by military authorities or news media, including an encounter in Cagayan province north of Manila that left 23 people dead.

Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said Monday that the administration should ask guerrilla leaders whether they still are interested in reconciliation.

Mrs. Aquino, in her campaign against Marcos in the Feb. 7 presidential election, promised a six-month cease-fire with the guerrillas, who are estimated to have 12,000 to 30,000 followers.

In addition, more than 500 prisoners, including top former leaders of the Communist Party, were ordered released in the first days of Mrs. Aquino's presidency.

Some top military officials expressed reservations when Mrs. Aquino first proposed the cease-fire after taking office Feb. 25, saying the rebels might use a truce to bolster their own attacks.

The Communists' national leadership has not formally taken up Mrs. Aquino's offer, and at least two regional chapters have been reported as saying they would not surrender unless radical reforms were introduced.

The Manila Times Journal newspaper published a statement Tuesday by the Bicol command of the Communist New People's Army (NPA), saying it would continue armed struggle to "mop up the remnants of the fascist machinery" of the deposed Marcos administration.

It called for land reform and the removal from the Philippines of two U.S. military facilities, Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Navy Base.

The New People's Army is the military arm of the Philippines Communist Party. The group operates in the country's Bicol area south east of Manila, one of the most active rebel areas in recent years.

In Associated Press tally of rebel-related incidents reported by the military and media shows that of the 114 reportedly killed during the last 18 days, 54 were soldiers or militiamen, 25 were rebels and 25 were civilians.

Mrs. Aquino Tuesday named top criminal lawyer Jose Diokno to head a Philippine human rights commission with wide-ranging powers, including the right to reopen investigations into her husband's murder.

The commission will examine complaints of killings, torture, unexplained disappearances, and other human rights violations under Marcos.

Mr. Diokno, a human rights activist, was jailed in 1972 when Marcos imposed nine years of martial law.

His appointment was announced by presidential spokesman Rene Saguisag who said it would be for the commission to decide whether to reopen the probe into the killing of Mrs. Aquino's husband, opposition leader Benigno Aquino, in 1983.

Marcos' military chief Fabian Ver and 25 other men were acquitted of involvement in the murder. Mrs. Aquino has frequently said she suspects Marcos was behind the assassination.

One of the prosecutors in the case said last month that the judges, Mr. Fitzgerald said he was pleased with the economic aid bill's rapid passage and he hoped nothing would hold it up in the Senate.

Some congressmen, fearing the money might not be evenly distributed between Protestants and minority Catholics, have insisted on further hearings before putting the issue to a vote.

Mr. Fitzgerald told a news conference he had detected a softening of opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement from hard-line Protestants in Northern Ireland who want the province to remain British.

"I think there has been in recent weeks a growth of realism among Unionists in Northern Ireland, a realistic appreciation of the agreement as a binding agreement between Britain and Ireland," he said.

"We don't want to exclude them," he said. "They are the majority in the province."

Mr. Fitzgerald also took part in St. Patrick's Day celebrations. At a White House ceremony Monday he presented Mr. Reagan with a traditional gift of fresh shamrock and a two-foot crystal replica of the State of Liberty.

The Irish Prime Minister conferred Irish citizenship on House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, who retired later this year after 50 years of public service including 33 years as a congressman.

At a dinner in honour of the Massachusetts Democrat, Mr. Fitzgerald said Mr. O'Neill, who is of Irish descent, symbolised the "extraordinary close ties between Ireland and the United States."

MIAMI (R) — A 16-year-old boy found floating off Florida in a tyre inner tube said he spent five days drifting towards the United States from Cuba, coast guard officials said.

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U.S. gives support for Ulster pact

WASHINGTON (R) — Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald has received fresh pledges from President Reagan and congressional leaders on U.S. backing for an Anglo-Irish accord on Northern Ireland.

Mr. Fitzgerald, who returned home Tuesday, thanked Mr. Reagan during a meeting Monday for supporting a \$250 million aid package for Northern Ireland which the House of Representatives has approved. The Senate vote is still pending.

Mr. Reagan said during the meeting that Washington was determined to support the accord which for the first time provides the Irish government with a say in the affairs of British-ruled Northern Ireland.

After meeting congressional leaders, Mr. Fitzgerald said he was pleased with the economic aid bill's rapid passage and he hoped nothing would hold it up in the Senate.

Some congressmen, fearing the money might not be evenly distributed between Protestants and minority Catholics, have insisted on further hearings before putting the issue to a vote.

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UAE builds fence to keep camels off highway

DUBAI (R) — The Emirates of Dubai and Abu Dhabi are building a 140 kilometre fence to keep camels from straying onto a major desert highway, where they are the main cause of traffic accidents, Al Bayan newspaper reported Tuesday.

The fence, which is being built by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government, is intended to prevent camels from crossing the highway and causing accidents.

The fence is being built along the main highway between Dubai and Abu Dhabi, which is one of the most active rebel areas in recent years.

In Associated Press tally of rebel-related incidents reported by the military and media shows that of the 114 reportedly killed during the last 18 days, 54 were soldiers or militiamen, 25 were rebels and 25 were civilians.

Mrs. Aquino Tuesday named top criminal lawyer Jose Diokno to head a Philippine human rights commission with wide-ranging powers, including the right to reopen investigations into her husband's murder.

The commission will examine complaints of killings, torture, unexplained disappearances, and other human rights violations under Marcos.

Mr. Diokno, a human rights activist, was jailed in 1972 when Marcos imposed nine years of martial law.

His appointment was announced by presidential spokesman Rene Saguisag who said it would be for the commission to decide whether to reopen the probe into the killing of Mrs. Aquino's husband, opposition leader Benigno Aquino, in 1983.

Marcos' military chief Fabian Ver and 25 other men were acquitted of involvement in the murder. Mrs. Aquino has frequently said she suspects Marcos was behind the assassination.

One of the prosecutors in the case said last month that the judges, Mr. Fitzgerald said he was pleased with the economic aid bill's rapid passage and he hoped nothing would hold it up in the Senate.

Some congressmen, fearing the money might not be evenly distributed between Protestants and minority Catholics, have insisted on further hearings before putting the issue to a vote.

Mr. Fitzgerald told a news conference he had detected a softening of opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement from hard-line Protestants in Northern Ireland who want the province to remain British.

"I think there has been in recent weeks a growth of realism among Unionists in Northern Ireland, a realistic appreciation of the agreement as a binding agreement between Britain and Ireland," he said.

"We don't want to exclude them," he said. "They are the majority in the province."

Mr. Fitzgerald also took part in St. Patrick's Day celebrations. At a White House ceremony Monday he presented Mr. Reagan with a traditional gift of fresh shamrock and a two-foot crystal replica of the State of Liberty.

The Irish Prime Minister conferred Irish citizenship on House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, who retired later this year after 50 years of public service including 33 years as a congressman.

At a dinner in honour of the Massachusetts Democrat, Mr. Fitzgerald said Mr. O'Neill, who is of Irish descent, symbolised the "extraordinary close ties between Ireland and the United States."

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Isbert Castro-Diaz was picked up by a pleasure boat about 30 miles east of Miami suffering from severe sunburn, dehydration and exposure after bobbing across about 250 miles of open sea. The boy was recovering in a Miami hospital Tuesday while Coast Guard cutters searched off southern Florida for his brother-in-law. Castro-Diaz said they left northern Cuba last Thursday but were separated during a storm two days later.

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